



# Hamilton County Emergency Management

## Severe Weather Preparedness – Tornado Drill and Sheltering

March 20, 2018

Today, the National Weather Service will conduct a statewide tornado drill at 10:15 a.m. Hamilton County Emergency Management will participate in the drill by sounding all 75 sirens in Hamilton County. Everyone should consider participating in the drill by doing what you plan on doing if a tornado warning was issued.

Everyone should know where you would go to have the highest available level of protection from a tornado, such as home, work, school, or house of worship. The National Weather Service recommends the following:

- HOMES OR SMALL BUILDINGS

Go to the basement (if available) or an interior room on the lowest floor, such as a closet or bathroom. Wrap yourself in overcoats or blankets to protect yourself.

- SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, FACTORIES, OR SHOPPING CENTERS

Go to interior areas on the lowest floor. Stay away from glass and very large rooms. Follow the instructions of the facility safety officials.

- HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS

Go to interior rooms or halls. Avoid exterior walls or glass.

- IN CARS OR MOBILE HOMES

Most tornado deaths occur in cars and mobile homes. If you have time, leave them for a substantial structure or designated tornado shelter. As a last resort, lie flat in your car or nearby ditch and use your hands to cover your head.

This year, there is only one tornado drill; however, emergency management recommends families to rehearse what they would do if a tornado warning is issued. It is important to stay in your shelter location until after the storm passes.

Beginning on Friday of this week, emergency management will resume the weekly testing of the siren system on Fridays at 11:00 a.m.

Hamilton County Emergency Management encourages the public, businesses, and schools to prepare now for severe weather. Additional resources are available on Emergency Management's website at

An infographic titled "Your Best Options for Tornado Safety Are (In This Order)" with a blue background and white text. It includes two images: a top-down view of a residential neighborhood and a close-up of a large, dark, swirling tornado. The infographic lists two main options for safety, each with several bullet points. It also includes "Other important sheltering reminders" and a concluding statement. The National Weather Service logo is visible in the bottom left corner, and the text "NWS Norman, OK" is at the bottom.

**Your Best Options for Tornado Safety Are (In This Order)**

1. In an underground storm shelter, storm cellar, basement or engineered safe room designed to withstand a tornado
2. On the lowest floor of a sturdy building:
  - Stay away from doors, windows and outside walls.
  - Put as many walls between you and the tornado as you can.
  - Use pillows, couch cushions, sleeping bags, a mattress or blankets to cover up.
  - If you or your children have helmets, wear them!
  - If you have an infant, put them in their car seat or carrier.

Other important sheltering reminders:

- Wear long pants, long sleeve shirt, and real shoes (not flip flops or sandals!)
- Charge your cell phone and take it with you to shelter
- Make sure you know what you'll do with your pets. Find leashes and carriers now

**You can survive almost every tornado if you follow these guidelines!**

NWS Norman, OK



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[www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/em](http://www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/em) and from the National Weather Service's website at  
[www.weather.gov/ind](http://www.weather.gov/ind)